

Appl. No. 10/623,546
Amdt, dated May 4, 2005
Reply to Office Action of Nov. 4, 2005

I. Amendments to the Specification

[0011] Fig. 4 is a ~~top~~ bottom plan view of a corner member of the barrier of Figure 1;

[0012] Fig. 5 is a ~~top~~ bottom plan view of a side member of the barrier of Figure 1;

[0014] Figure 7 is an assembled view of the ~~frame corner and side members of Figure 1~~ Figures 4 and 5.

[0024] Referring to Figure 3, with the screen 12 omitted for clarity, the frame 14 includes a continuous channel 22 for mounting the screen 12 thereto by such as but not limited to a flexible spline as is known in the art. The dimensions of the frame 14 are variable in length and width through user selection of the length of the side members 18, such as but not limited to by cutting or otherwise trimming of standard length side members 18. The frame 14 comprises four corner members 16 interconnected with four side members 18, joined together so as to form the frame 14 having a rectangular shape with a central opening 11. However it is recognised that other polygonal shapes of the insect barrier 10 can be provided, if desired, with an alternate number and shape of corresponding corner members and side members (not shown). Preferably, each corner member 16 is coupled to two adjacent side members 18 to assemble the frame 14. A set of tabs 24a,b are attached to each of the corner members 16 to assist in frictional engagement of the side members 18 once coupled with the corner members 16, as further described below, such that the members 16, 18 of the frame 14 remain coupled once assembled. For example, the corner members 16 can be substantially the same size and dimension with respect to one another, and any pair of opposing side members 18 can be approximately of similar length, as selected by the user of the insect barrier 10 to

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accommodate the primary entrance 19 size of the corresponding catch basin 20 (see Figure 2). It is also recognised that the tabs 24a,b could be attached to the side members 18 with corresponding flanges 42a,b (see Figure 5) on the corner member 16, or a combination thereof.

[0032] Referring to Figures 9 and 10, an insect barrier 110 includes (a portion shown for convenience) a corner member 116 having a base 126, sidewall 128, and tabs 124a,b. It is noted that a corner channel portion 134, composed of two channel portions 136, is provided as an extension of the tab 124b, such that the corner member 116 (including the channel 134) can be formed through folding one piece of sheet material. The base 126 and tabs 124a,b form a female connector 130 as noted for connector 30 above for the insect barrier 10. A sheet member or key 100 provides corresponding male connectors 132 on either side for insertion into the female connector 130 of the corner member 116. Coupling of the key 100 and the corner member 116 can be done as discussed above with respect to the insect barrier 10. It is further recognized that the key 100 may be part of the base 126 of the corner member 116, rather than connected via the female connector 130.

[0034] Referring to Figure 13, assembly of the insect barrier 110 (a portion shown for convenience) uses the male connectors 132 of the key 100 to secure adjacent female connectors 130 of corresponding corner members 116 and side members 118. As noted with continuous channel 22, the insect screen 10, the corresponding corner channel 134 and adjacent side channel 136 are positioned in abutment with one another to form a continuous channel 122 there-between (see Figure 14). It is recognised that alternatively, any combination of male connectors 132 and female connectors 130 can be positioned on the corner members 116 and side members 118 as long as the continuous channel 122 is provided once the frame 114 is assembled. As discussed above in relation to the screen the insect barrier 10, the screen is fastened to the channel 122 of the insect barrier 110. Further, it is recognized that the connection between abutting adjacent ends of the channel portions 136 of the corner channel portion 134 can be reinforced by overlapping and fastening the adjacent

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ends, or by fastening a separate plate overlapping the abutment of the two channel portions 136. Reinforcement between adjacent channel portions 136 of the side members 118 and corner members 116 can also be employed, if desired. The reinforcement could also be used for the barrier 10 (see Figure 3), if desired.